

REMARKS

Interview Summary

The Applicants thank Examiner Zia for granting a telephonic interview to discuss the present application. In the interview of October 16, 2007, the features of the Applicants' non-hub device and the means by which the device connects to a computer (i.e. via a USB connection) were discussed. The differences between commercial hub devices and the Applicants' non-hub device, and the manner in which power for such devices may be drawn from a USB port were discussed. The applicability of the cited prior art reference was discussed. An agreement in respect of allowable claims was not reached.

Claim Rejections – 35 USC 102

Claims 1-42 stand rejected in this application under 35 U.S.C. 102 as being unpatentable over US 7,082,598 issued to Le et al. (hereinafter "Le").

Claims 2-6, 8-21, 23-27, and 29-42 are cancelled, without prejudice.

Independent claims 1 and 22 have been amended to recite additional distinguishing features of one embodiment of the Applicants' non-hub device, namely:

- (i) that the non-hub device is a personal digital assistant ["PDA"] (see e.g. p. 5, line 19);
- (ii) that the installed software on the PDA is configured so that the PDA represents itself as a hub instead of representing itself as a PDA in order to draw at least one of power and charge from the computer, by sending a first signal to the computer (see e.g. p. 7, lines 10-17);

- (iii) that the installed software on the PDA is further configured so that the PDA represents itself as the hub being connected to one peripheral device if the PDA is not connected to any peripheral devices, by sending a second signal to the computer (see e.g. p. 10 lines 4-8);
- (iv) the first and second signals are compliant with a USB standard (see e.g. p. 9, lines 7-8); and
- (v) that the PDA connects to the computer via a connector comprising a cable having a USB compliant plug and port combination, and wherein the computer comprises a USB hub driver and is configured to provide at least one of power and charge to the PDA appropriate for one peripheral device connected to a hub in response to the first and second signals (see e.g. p. 7 lines 7-10, p. 8 lines 15-18, and p. 10 lines 8-12).

A number of minor amendments were made to the certain terms in claims 1, 7, 22 and 28 for consistency. No new matter has been added.

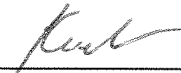
The amended claims each recite a combination of features that the Applicants' respectfully submit are both novel and inventive over the prior art. For example, the amended claims clarify that the device being connected to a computer is a PDA that represents itself as a hub instead of representing itself as a PDA, thus distinguishing it from a true hub device. Furthermore, unlike typical true hub devices, a PDA may generally be used in mobile settings (see e.g. p. 1 lines 15-17), and accordingly is not of the same type as the device described in the cited reference. The amended claims also clarify that the software installed on the PDA is configured to send USB-compliant signals to the computer to trigger the provision of at least one of power and charge appropriate for one peripheral device connected to a USB hub (e.g. in contrast to the minimum power that might otherwise be provided to an arbitrary device), even if the PDA is not in fact connected to any peripheral devices.

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The Applicants respectfully submit that the cited reference fails to teach all the claimed limitations, and request that the objection under 35 U.S.C. 102 be withdrawn. The Applicants also respectfully submit that the claimed combination of features is also inventive over the cited reference for the reasons provided above.

Applicants respectfully submit that each of claims 1, 7, 22 and 28 is now in form for allowance, and a notice to that effect is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,
Bereskin & Parr
Agents for the Applicants

By 
Kendrick Lo
Reg. No. 54,948
(416) 364-7311